[Smt. Bijoya Chakravarty]

Government of India have now fixed the price of natural gas with effect from January 1987. Against existing gas price varying from Rs. 97 per 1000 C.U.M. to Rs. 320 per 1000 C.U.M.. the price is hiked to such an extent that it is Rs. 1000 per 1000 C.U.M. It is really exorbitant and this price is more for poor people of Assam. Both Oil India and Oil and Natural Gas Commission have informed the consumers that they will charge Rs. 1000 for 1000 cubic metres of gas with retrospective effect from 1-1-83. This will put a tremendous burden on the poor consumer to the tune of crores and crores of rupees. Secondly, it will discourage the new customers from buying gas at such an exorbitant price. This will also adversely affect different industries, especially tea gardens in upper Assam.

The Assam Gas Company has proposed to undertake three projects: the Sibsagar gas grid, Sonari gas grid and Duliajan gas grid. These will be thwarted by the proposed hike in gas prices.

This hike in gas price will adversely affect Assam's economy in more than one way. The power position will be affected by this price hike. There is already some regional imbalance in Assam so far as industrialisation is concerned. This abrupt move of price hike will push Assam more and more to the backwaters of under-development.

When Government can afford to burn gas amounting to lakhs of rupees, what benefit will the Government get by hiking the price in such a way?

Sir, ours is a welfare state. aiming at eliminating poverty and creating regional balances in every sphere of life. Hence the hike in the price of gas will surely deprive the poor who live hand to mouth because they cannot afford to pay such high prices.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think you have finished.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: One line more, Sir. I appeal to the authorities concerned to review the present hike in gas prices and consider making it reasonable so that the poor people can afford to buy it and the industries, whatever there are in Assam, may not suffer any closure.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA (Gujarat): The price of gas in Gujarat is much higher than in Assam. We are also suffering. I support your case.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No debate please. Sardar Jagjit Singh Aurora.

REFERENCE TO THE REPORT OF RANGANATH MISHRA COMMISSION

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA (Punjab): Sir, I wish to raise the issue of Justice Ranganath Mishra Commission of Inquiry's report which was set up to go into the allegations of killing, loot and arson in the first week of November 1984 in Delhi, Kanpur and Bokaro after the unfortunate assassination of Mrs. Indira Gandhi. The report has failed to satisfy the public at large and has caused great anguish and disappointment to the Sikh community. It has been dubbed as an eye-wash or a whitewash by many of the national newspapers.

The carnage of November 1984 is a shameful record of Government's failure to protect the lives and property of innocent people. While people were being brutally killed, burnt alive, women raped, Gurdwaras, houses and property of the Sikh community set on fire and looted, the police took little or no action and at time even joined the organised mobs in these nefarious activities. Local leaders of the ** organised and led these pillaging gangs. The administration...

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: No, no.

**Not recorded..

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: May I finish? Then I will satisfy them. The administration either deliberately or helplessly failed to take any effective action. The demand for a commission of inquiry was stonewalled for five months and conceded under public pressure, but later used as a bargaining counter for the Accord with Sant Longowal. The Commission was constituted in April but did not start functioning till August, 1985. The independent investigation agency started functioning much later. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Punjab): On a point of order, Sir. With all humility I submit that this is not the scope of Special Mention. Under the garb of Special Mention, you cannot mention all this like a regular debate.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE (Maharashtra): Sir, on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will be in your interest not to offend the other Members.

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: I think...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should speak in a way that you do not offend the other Members. Yes, Mr. N. K. P. Salve is on a point of order.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Sir, my point of order relates to the precise scope of a special mention. Any matter which falls in an area for which a substantive motion can be raised or which can be raised in any other manner here cannot—repeat not—ever be brought. That is my respectful submission. Therefore, whatever views the honourable Member has, maybe in a legitimate debate he may be able to raise them, because these are controversial matters and we would like to have our say also. And for him to cast aspersions in the manner in which he is doing, to say the least...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will allow you to associate ... (*Interruptions*) ... I will allow one Member from this side to say whatever you want to say. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Then are we going to have a debate, Sir? I am agreeable; I will take care of it. I am agreeable provided you will allow us a debate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not want to allow a debate...(*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: I do not want a debate either...(*Interruptions*)... I want him to confine himself to the limits.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You hear me ...(*Interruptions*)...

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: May I carry on, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just wait, please. Mr. Aurora, you came to me and we discussed this matter. I have given you a very special consideration in giving you this special mention. But you should do it in such a manner that you do not unnecessarily acerbate the feelings of other Members of the House. You go on now.

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: Right.

SHRI K. MOHANAN (Kerala): There are so many precedents, Sir.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: (West Bengal): How can he not?... (*Interruptions*)...

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: I will carry on now. A Citizens Justice Committee was formed under retired Chief Justice Sikri, to help the Commission and put forth the case of the victims. It worked sincerely with the Commission till March, 1986, but reluctantly had to withdraw when it became abundantly clear that the Commission was not interested in delving deep into the causes and the course of events. As expected, the

[Sardar Jagjit Singh Aurora]

Commission, which took nearly one and a half years to inquire into this horrendous mob violence which was instigated and organized, came out with a damp squib.**

MR. CHAIRMAN: This thing will not go on record. I don't allow it... (*Interruptions*)...No, No. I am on my legs. Will you sit down? Do you know the Rules of Procedure? When I am on my legs, you must sit down. I allowed it only for the purpose of what further action, subsequent to the report, is to be taken, in order to allay the feelings and all that. But if you are going to create another situation here, I am going to stop you now.

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): Point of order, Sir... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI K. MOHANAN: He has just mentioned about**...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no, it is not that. The point is really this. All the leaders and we discussed what is the action that should be taken on the basis of the report in order to allay the feelings and bring about a normal atmosphere. That was the purpose for which this was allowed. It was not allowed for the purpose of creating a debate on this. If that is so, I am not allowing you.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): Sir, the mention made about the** during the course of his speech may kindly be deleted...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI K. MOHANAN: That was exactly my point.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): Sir, are they untouchables? Why are they so sensitive? Everybody knows that we have come here representing certain parties.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Everybody has the right to accuse another party and that party has the right to defend itself. Let him accuse and let them defend...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is beyond the scope of the purpose for which it was allowed. The scope was that in pursuance of this report certain actions were proposed to be taken. What is it they have taken and how are we going to allay the feelings and bring about a normal atmosphere? That is the purpose, scope of this. And if you are going to create another problem by casting aspersions on others, I will have to stop you.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: There is no question of casting aspersion, Sir.

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: No problem can be solved...

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you go beyond the scope for which I allowed, I am going to disallow it. Will you be able to confine yourself to the action or are you going to continue this way?

श्री भजन लाल : मेरा पाइन्ट आफ आर्डर है । जो अरोडा साहब ने कहा है यह दायरे के बाहर की बात है और यह हाउस की कार्यवाही से निकालना चाहिए । यह न तो सिखों के हित में है और न हिन्दुओं के हित में है । इससे लोगो के जजबात भडकेंगे । इसलिए मेरा आपसे यह निवेदन है कि अगर यह हाउस के रिकार्ड में रहेगा तो प्रेस में आएगा, यह मुनासिब नहीं होगा । इसको हाउस की कार्यवाही के रिकार्ड से निकाल दिया जाए । आप अरोडा साहब से कहें कि आगे ऐसी बात वे न कहें ।

SADAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: Sir, I would like to mention one

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thing that neither is it against the Hindus. I do not know why the Minister here is calling it a Hindu-Sikh problem. I think it is a purely law-and-order problem. It is incompetence of the Government not having provided security.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Aurora, again I repeat, I have repeated more than once, this was allowed only to the purpose of taking pursuant action on the basis of the report in order to allay the feelings and bringing about a peaceful atmosphere. If you are going to create further acerbation of feelings...

SHRI K. MOHANAN:*

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH:*

MR. CHAIRMAN: None of these things will go on record.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): A point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No point of order. Please sit down.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, I have a submission to make on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No submission. Submission not allowed. Mr. Das Gupta not permitted. Mr. Aurora please.

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: Can I at least repeat what has been put in the report? That has been made public. All I want to say is... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot be a better champion of your rights than myself. Why do you pretend to be a greater champion? I said and I repeat that in purusance of the report on what action to be taken in order to see that the feelings are assuaged, on that you are at perfect liberty to say everything.

*Not recorded.

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: That is exactly what I am doing. But I must point out where things had gone wrong. Otherwise, how do you put them right? If the impression is that we are going to sweep it under the carpet and everybody will forget about it, I am sure it is not going to happen.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, No. That is not the idea. The idea was that you say in pursuance of this what further action should be taken.

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: What I am saying is that in the report itself 23 persons...

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA (Bihar): A point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Ahluwalia. Mr. Aurora, please sit down.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I also wanted to raise a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: First point of order from Mr. Ahluwalia.

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया : सभापति जी, पिछले सेशन में हम लोगों ने एक बिल पास किया था जिसमें हम लोगों ने विचार किया था कि कोई भी ऐसा मुद्दा, संसद में कोई भी इन्क्वायरी, कमीशन के रिपोर्ट, जो मुद्दा मुल्क में सेनसेशन पैदा करे और तनाव पैदा करे और हिन्दू सिख भाई चारे के बीच एक वाइडगल्फ क्रियेट करे, ऐसा मुद्दा संसद में नहीं उठ सकता । ऐसा बिल हमने पास किया था । आज आपके माध्यम से स्पशल मेंशन के माध्यम से इसी मुद्दे को उठाने की कोशिश चल रही है इसलिए इसको अलाऊ नहीं करना चाहिए । यही मेरा प्वांइट आफ आर्डर है ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. I have got you. Mr. Das Gupta.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: My submission is, each and every Member in the House should have the freedom of speech, of course, within the Rules of Procedure of the House. This is the right of a Member.

[Shri Gurudas Das Gupta]

Secondly, Sir, I would make an appeal to General Aurora to speak in a way which does not hamper the situation which is developing in Punjab as a result of the united action of all the secular parties. This is a point he should take into consideration while speaking.

At the same time, I should say that you should uphold the right of the Member to speak out his version within the Rules of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I want to make this clear and it is for guidance for the future. Whenever I allow a special mention, I always limit the scope of the special mention. And if you go beyond the scope of the special mention which I have allowed, the Chairman has every right to stop it.

AN HON. MEMBER: What is the time limit for a special mention?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Even though certain things may be permitted in a debate, in special metion, if I have prescribed the four corners within which it should be made, that will prevail. That is the decision.

Now, Mr. Aurora you are to continue the speech only with reference to the follow up action to be taken.

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: Guillotined, Sir? Anyway, I will abdie by your decision.

Now, the Commission has advised the Government to constitute two panels—one to go into the performance of the policemen and the other to further investigate the crimes of the 23 persons belonging to the... *(Interruptions)***

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, cut that out.

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: It is mentioned there.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, it is part of the recommendation. It is in the report, Sir. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down, all of you. A criminal is a criminal whether he belongs to one party or the other. Therefore, the point that he has said is: 23 people have committed crimes. I will not allow the other part. *(Interruptions)*.

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: It has been mentioned in the Report itself. That is why I have used the word. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing it. Why do you say it is mentioned in the Report? I am not bound to allow every word of it.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: We don't consider anybody is untouchable.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You say you are touchable and they are untouchables. They say they are the touchables and you are untouchable. *(Interruptions)***

Nothing will go no record. Now, Mr. Aurora you proceed. Your allotted time has already been lost.

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: 23 per sons have been identified by the Commission. The Government has accepted the recommendations and certain retired persons have been nominated to form these panels. No further information is available about the mode of their functioning. If these panels are going to work *in camera*, in a hush-hush atmosphere, nothing is likely to come out. Here I may sav that the Government which cannot protect the innocent people and later show complete disinclination

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to identify and punish the guilty cannot command confidence and trust of the people.

REFERENCE TO THE NEED TO PROVIDE ASSISTACE TO SANSKRIT SCHOLARS WISHING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORLD SANSKRIT CONFERENCE AT LAIDEN, HOLLAND

SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT (Jammu and Kashmir): I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to discuss a subject which is Sanskrit, the mother of all the Indian languages and bedrock of the Indian culture. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN (Tamil Nadu): It is not. Tamil is the most classical and ancient language.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): We do not accept that Sanskrit is the mother of all languages. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is happening is the negation of democracy. Every member is entitled to express his opinion. You may agree, you may disagree. Merely because you disagree, you cannot shout him down. Then there will bo no Parliament. It is his view. It is the view of Mr. Prashant that Sanskrit is the mother of all languages. It is the view of Mr. Gopalsamy and Mr. Maran that it is not the mother of all the languages.

SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: Sanskrit is the mother of all languages.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is his personal view that the Sanskrit is the mother of all languages. There are other people who have different views.

SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: Sanskrit language belongs to our Indian culture and Indian civilisation. We have world scholars on Sanskrit language. Sir, Sanskrit is not confined to India alone but it is known all over the world. After every six years, World Conference on Sanskrit language is held.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We know every thing about Sanskrit. Please go ahead with your World Conference.

SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: After every six years a World Conference on Sanskrit language is held. One was held at Varanasi in 1981 which was inaugurated by the then Chief Minister, Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh... (*Interruptions*)...

AN HON. MEMBER: He is wrong.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not know that he is a great Sanskrit scholar.

SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: I was one of the delegates from Jammu and Kashmir at that Conference. Sir, well-known Sanskrit scholars from all over the world, Poland, Finland, Czechoslovakia, Belgium, etc., attended the Conference and read out their research papers. There was one paper presented on Som Dev's 'Katha Sarita Sagar'. Nobody knows what is meant by 'Katha Sarita Sagar'. That was a very good paper read out by a Russian scholar. This shows that this language is not confined to our country alone but all over the world. In Tokyo University...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your subject?

SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: The Seventh World Sanskrit Conference is being held at Lalden, Holland..

MR. CHAIRMAN: Therefore...

SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: Many scholars from all over the world are attending and a very limited number of scholars from India are attending. Many of our scholars wanted to go but because of financial difficulties they are unable to go. I am glad that the Prime Minister is sitting here and I appeal to the Government to...